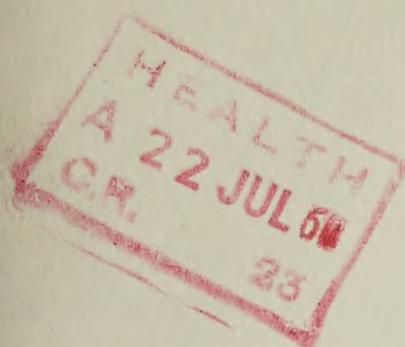


AC.4441(3)

~~Mr. S. J. S. S. S.~~
2. Library



SEAFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED - 31st DECEMBER, 1959



Public Health Department,
West House,
WES.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30074769>

Public Health Department,
Lewes House,
LEWES.

4th March, 1960.

To the Chairman
and Members of the Seaford Health & Housing Committee.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of public health and on the sanitary circumstances of Seaford for the year 1959.

The estimated population of Seaford for 1959 was 11,080, the highest so far recorded. Since 1949 when the population was 10,260 there has thus been an increase of 820 or almost 8 per cent.

The crude birth rate for 1959 was 9.48 per 1,000 population. On applying a comparability factor to the crude rate so that a fair comparison may be made between the local birth rate and the birth rates of other districts and of that of England and Wales, a comparable birth rate of 12.42 is arrived at. This latter figure is less than that for England and Wales for the same year which was 16.5 per 1,000 population.

The crude death rate for 1959 for Seaford was 16.06. Again applying a comparability factor to the crude rate for the same reasons as in the case of the birth rate, the comparable death rate for Seaford resulted in a figure of 11.24 compared with the death rate for England and Wales for the same year which was 11.6 per 1,000 population. Comparability factors to apply to crude birth and death rates are worked out in the Registrar General's office and they take account of age and sex distribution in an area.

There were no maternal deaths in Seaford during the year.

There was a total of 178 deaths in 1959. As in former years deaths from heart disease again led with 62 deaths followed by cancer with 30 deaths and by vascular lesions of the nervous system with 25 deaths.

The average age at death of Seaford residents in 1959 was 71.06 years.

Three hundred and twenty-five cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year of which 308 were of measles; 6 of acute primary pneumonia; 5 of erysipelas, 3 of scarlet fever, 2 of puerperal pyrexia and 1 of whooping cough. There were no deaths in any of the cases of infectious diseases notified.

Eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in Seaford in 1959. Five of the pulmonary cases were transfers into Seaford from other areas.

There were no deaths from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

My thanks are due to members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement during the year, and to officials of the Council for their help and courtesy.

I am Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G.M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

Statistics of the Area - 1959

Area (in acres)	4,274
Population (estimated)	11,080
Rateable Value (1st April, 1959)	£193,226
Sum represented by a penny rate	£770

Extracts from Vital Statistics

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
Legitimate	52	49	101	
Illegitimate	2	2	<u>4</u> 105	9.48
<u>Deaths</u>	76	102	178	16.06
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth.		-	-	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births</u> 0.00
<u>Infantile Mortality</u> (Deaths under one year of age)	1	2	3	<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u> 28.57

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population is 11,080.

The population of Seaford for the last ten years is as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
1950	10,430	94	127	9.01	12.18
1951	10,110	100	135	9.89	13.35
1952	10,340	95	144	9.19	13.93
1953	10,360	84	128	8.11	12.35
1954	10,500	90	163	8.57	15.52
1955	10,550	90	154	8.53	14.59
1956	10,670	82	166	7.68	15.56
1957	10,780	102	150	9.46	13.91
1958	10,910	100	161	9.16	14.76
1959	11,080	105	178	9.48	16.06

The population figure has shown an increase of 170 over the figure of 10,910 for 1958. Since 1949 the population has risen from 10,260 to 11,080, an increase of 820 or very nearly 8 per cent. As, during the same period, the number of deaths recorded has exceeded the number of births by 594, it is obvious that the increase in population is due to the movement of persons into the area. As has been pointed out in previous annual reports, there will always be a preponderance of deaths over births in an area where a considerable group of the population is composed of the middle aged and of the elderly. The extremely healthy climate and pleasant surroundings of the town, induce many retired

people to make their home in Seaford.

Maternal Mortality

No case of maternal mortality was recorded in Seaford during 1959.

Only one maternal death has occurred in the district during the past eleven years, during which period 1,097 births have taken place, the rate for the area per 1,000 live and still births during the eleven years being 0.91.

Infantile Mortality

During the year 1959 three infants under one year of age died in Seaford. This represented an infantile mortality rate of 28.57 per 1,000 live births. All of these infants died within four weeks of birth. This rate is higher than that usually recorded for the area but it must be remembered that when the number of infantile deaths recorded each year is so low, then a difference of one or two deaths in any one year makes a very large variation in the rate per 1,000 live births recorded for the year in question.

Birth Rate

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 9.48 per 1,000 population. This represents an increase of 0.32 on last year's figure of 9.16 and is the highest figure recorded since the crude birth rate of 9.89 reached in 1951.

An area comparability factor of 1.31 is applicable to the crude birth rate in the town. This figure is supplied by the Registrar General in order that a fair comparison may be made between the local birth rates of different districts. In this case its application gives an adjusted birth rate of 12.42. With this adjustment the rate for the district is still considerably short of the rate of 16.5 recorded in 1959 for England and Wales.

Death Rate

The death rate for the year under review was 16.06 per 1,000 population, the death rate for England and Wales for the same period being 11.6 per 1,000 population.

An area comparability factor of 0.70 is applicable to the crude death rate of 16.06 per 1,000 and this gives an adjusted figure of 11.24 per 1,000 population, which is 0.36 less than the rate for

England and Wales for the same period.

	<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Heart disease	26	36	62
Cancer	20	10	30
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	17	25
Circulatory disease other than mentioned elsewhere	3	6	9
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	3	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Influenza	-	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	2	2
Diseases of respiratory system other than mentioned elsewhere	1	-	1
Congenital malformation	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
Accidents other than motor-vehicle accidents	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	18	25
	<hr/> 76	<hr/> 102	<hr/> 178

The highest age at death was. 94 years

The lowest age at death was. 18 hours

The average age at death was. 71.06 years

SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease and Diseases of the Circulatory System

The number of deaths due to heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system was 71, which represents over one-third of the total number of deaths of Seaford residents during 1959 and comprises 9 more deaths than last year's total of 62.

Cancer

Thirty deaths due to cancer were recorded in Seaford during 1959. Eleven of these cases were of cancer of the lung or bronchus, of which nine were males and two females. The thirty deaths give a cancer death rate of 2.71 per 1,000 population, a figure rather above the national rate of 2.14 per 1,000.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System

Twenty-five deaths, or almost exactly one-seventh of the total recorded, were due to vascular lesions of the nervous system. This is five more than the total for 1958. Vascular lesions of the nervous system include cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral embolism, thrombosis and other lesions and the majority of the deaths due to these causes occur amongst the elderly.

SECTION II

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Public Health Facilities of the Local Authority

During the period under review, the Medical Officer of Health for Seaford also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes, the Urban District of Newhaven and the Rural District of Chailey.

One Public Health Inspector carries out his particular duties in the Urban District of Seaford.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory established at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, has been of great assistance during the year.

The Laboratory has carried out for the Urban District, free of charge, the examination of a number of specimens of sputum. Examinations were also carried out of throat and rectal swabs and faeces, milk, water and ice-cream.

The service is extremely valuable both to your Medical Officer of Health, and to the Medical Practitioners in the district. It is particularly useful in providing a certain means of discovering whether or not a person has been invaded by the infective organism causing tuberculosis.

Ambulance Facilities

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which houses one ambulance in the town. During 1959 this vehicle was available for the conveyance of both infectious and non-infectious cases, and arrangements were in being for the disinfection of ambulance, bedding, clothing etc., after use for the transport of an infectious case. If a further call is received whilst the ambulance is out on duty, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other depots in the area.

Office accommodation for the personnel staffing the ambulance is provided by the County Council at the Mercread Road Ambulance Depot.

The East Sussex County Council provides facilities for the transport of tuberculosis cases.

Nursing in the Home

As in previous years, the East Sussex County Council, as empowered by Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has arranged for this service to be provided by the East Sussex County Nursing Association through the District Nursing Associations.

Hospitals

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ministry of Health is responsible for the provision of hospital accommodation. The accommodation in the area remains materially the same as it was prior to the passing of the Act.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Treatment centres have been provided as previously, and an immunisation clinic has been held on the first Thursday of each month at the Simmons Institute, Crouch Lane. This has proved very successful and was well attended.

Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives

The East Sussex County Council administers the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Services in respect of patients outside Institutions. All institutional care is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

SECTION III

Sanitary Circumstances and Sanitary Inspection of the Area

1. Staff

During the year under review the staff of the department consisted of one Public Health Inspector, one clerical assistant and one part-time rodent operator.

2. Rehousing

A further twelve one bedroom flats were completed during the year thus making a total of 24 units in this class of accommodation. The demand for the twelve flats allocated on this occasion was such as to justify the building of yet more one bedroom accommodation, and it is hoped that another 24 units will be available by 1961.

The completion of 24 three bedroom houses at present under construction will go some way to rehousing the most urgent cases on the housing waiting list.

Statistics

On January 1st 1959 the number of applicants on the housing waiting list was as follows:-

	<u>1st January 1959</u>	<u>31st December 1959</u>
Main List.	112	117
One-Bedroom flats List.	<u>49</u>	<u>45</u>
Total:	<u>161</u>	<u>162</u>
New applications received:		
Main List.	29	
One-Bedroom flats List.	21	
Number of families rehoused.	23	
Number of families transferred.	5	
Number of families exchanging accommodation out of the district.	1	

The administration of this section of departmental duties involved:-
270 visits, 473 interviews, 19 Committee Meetings, and 551 letters.

3. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 - Rodent Control

A part-time rodent operator was employed four hours each day for six days per week under the general supervision of the Public Health Inspector. A free service was provided to private dwelling houses, while all business premises were required to pay on a fixed hourly rate for treatments carried out.

Although there was a slight increase in the infestations reported, these were in the main, cases of minor infestation involving a small number of rats and easily dealt with.

The Alfriston Road tip, being on the fringe of the rural part of the district, again attracted a considerable number of rats from the surrounding countryside, but complete freedom from infestation was attained after intensive treatment.

In connection with all types of property 175 were inspected of which 80 were found to be infested. The treatments and inspections carried out involved 1,164 visits.

4. Supervision of Food & Food Premises

Milk

Thirty-five routine samples of milk were taken throughout the year from milk retailers, and all samples passed their relative tests. The milks sampled included pasteurised, sterilised, and T.T.milks.

In addition two samples were submitted for biological examination and the results showed no evidence of brucella or tuberculous infection.

Some of the distributors in the Urban District came under the control of one large dairy firm thus reducing the number of individual vendors, although their premises were retained for the distribution of milk. In addition a grocer's shop was registered for the distribution of milk from the premises, the milk being sold over the counter on request from regular customers.

In all seven premises within the Urban District are used in connection with the sale of milk, three being under the control of individual vendors, the other four being distributing depots for one large firm.

The following licences for the sale of graded milks were issued:-

Seven Pasteurised
Seven Tuberculin Tested
Three Sterilised

Ice-Cream

Fifty premises within the district are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Only one vendor makes his own ice-cream and constant supervision of this plant was carried out.

Twelve samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and the results of the Methylene Blue tests were graded as follows:-

Provisional Grade I	11
Provisional Grade II	-
Provisional Grade III	-
Provisional Grade IV	1
	<u>12</u>

Food Premises

The food premises register now contains records of premises as follows:-

5 Bakehouses.	3 Fish shops.
7 Butchers.	1 Fried Fish shop.
5 Dairies.	6 Hotels.
13 Grocers.	6 Mixed business.
14 Restaurants.	8 Public Houses.
13 Confectioners.	1 Stall.
7 Greengrocers.	1 Snack bar.
5 Bakers and Confectioners.	1 Coffee bar.

In addition 15 school kitchens and 7 clubs are premises coming within the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

Close supervision of food premises was maintained during the year and no major contravention of the legal standards was found. No opportunity was lost during 127 visits made, of stressing that good hygiene means good business, and many improvements beyond the legal requirements were carried out by co-operative proprietors. No outbreak of food poisoning was recorded despite the exceptionally hot summer with its resultant increase in holiday trade.

Food Inspection

The following items were found to be unfit for human consumption and accordingly surrendered by the vendors concerned for disposal:-

Twenty-one = 10 oz. tins Gardens Peas.
One = 6 lbs.tin Corned Beef.
One = 4 lbs.tin Chopped Ham.
Five = 4 lbs.tin Sandwich Ham.
One = 4 lbs.tin Brisket Beef.
Two = 3 lbs.4 oz.Chopped pork.
One = 10 lbs.12 oz.tin Shoulder Ham.
One = 9 lbs.5 oz.tin Shoulder Ham.
One = 12 lbs.9 oz. tin Shoulder Ham.
26 lbs of Beef.

5. Caravans

The permitted number of caravans to be stationed on the Hawth Hill site was raised by twelve to a total of 200. The sanitary accommodation and other amenities are more than capable of coping with this increase, and the site continued to be well run while presenting a neat and reasonably spacious layout. The letting of the caravans is restricted to the holiday season, no occupation being allowed from October until March.

No additional caravan licences were issued during the year the only other permitted site being one for 3 caravans adjacent to the site above.

6. Water supply

The water supply to the Urban District is provided by the Newhaven, Seaford and Ouse Valley Water Company which is soon to be amalgamated with other companies to form a larger administrative unit.

Regular samples were submitted for analysis by the Company and the results forwarded to the Council. These show a high degree of organic purity throughout 1959. Additional samples submitted by the Council confirmed the high quality of the water supplied.

One well in use in the Urban District was kept under close observation, regular samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results.

7. Public Health - Housing

Number of nuisances and housing defects.	12
Number where works were carried out as a result of informal notice.	12
Number of Statutory Notices served.	Nil.
Number of Statutory Notices complied with.	Nil.
Closing Order on building and still operative.	1.

8. Inspections and Complaints

Twenty-eight complaints covering a wide variety of subjects were investigated and action taken where necessary. In addition the following inspections were carried out:-

Drainage - inspection and testing.	247
Pet Animals Act.	7
Public Health Act - General.	92
Miscellaneous.	54
Interviews.	101

Public Health administration, excluding rehousing visits, necessitated 1761 visits for the full year. Rehousing matters, office administration, Committee Meetings, etc., also require a considerable amount of time, and must obviously effect the time spent on public health inspections.

9. Factories Act, 1937

In the Urban District there are nine factories on the register in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the above Act are enforced and twenty-eight factories in which Section 7 only is enforced. During 1959, 20 inspections were carried out. Details are as follows:-

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.)

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	28	16	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total:	37	20	-	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness.	2	2
Overcrowding.	--	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences		
(a) Insufficient.	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-
Total:	2	2

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nil

SECTION IV

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and
Other Diseases

Infectious Diseases

In all, 325 cases of infectious disease were confirmed in Seaford in 1959. The details were as follows:-

Disease.	Number of cases	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	308	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	6	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
	325		

Measles

Three hundred and eight cases of measles were notified in Seaford during 1959. No case was admitted to hospital and all cases made satisfactory recoveries. The number of cases of measles notified each year fluctuates considerably, years of heavy incidence usually alternating with years when few cases occur. Only seven cases were notified in Seaford in 1958. The greatest number of cases to be notified in the town in recent years was 420 in 1953, while only 2 cases were notified in the following year.

Acute Primary Pneumonia

Six cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified in Seaford during 1959. All cases were treated at home and made satisfactory recoveries.

Erysipelas

Five cases of erysipelas were notified in Seaford during 1959. Good recoveries were made in every case.

Scarlet Fever

Three cases of scarlet fever were notified in Seaford during 1959. All cases were treated at home and made satisfactory recoveries.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Two cases of puerperal pyrexia, a feverish condition occurring in women after childbirth, were notified in Seaford during 1959. This is the same number as was notified in 1957 and in 1958. Only eight cases have been recorded in Seaford in the past eleven years. Both patients made satisfactory recoveries.

Whooping Cough

Only one case of whooping cough was notified in the Urban District during 1959. This means that in four out of the five years since the combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine was first made generally available in the district the number of cases notified has been not more than two. The 24 cases notified in 1957 only brings the yearly average to just under six for the five years concerned.

SECTION V

Tuberculosis

In 1959 eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in Seaford. Of these, five of the pulmonary cases were persons who were already suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis when they moved into Seaford from other areas. The single notified case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was that of a woman who entered the district when already suffering from the disease.

1959 NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M	F	Non-Pulmonary M	F	Pulmonary M	F	Non-Pulmonary M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1 *	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1 *	1 *	-	1 *	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	2(1*)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1 *	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	4	4	-	1	-	-	-	-

* Inward transfers.

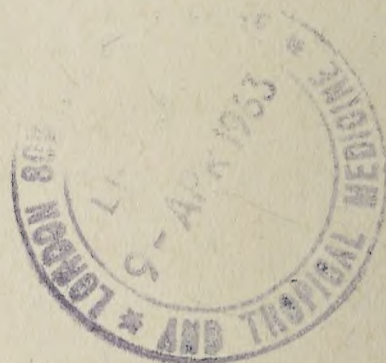
The incidence rate represented by the eight notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is 0.72. If the five inward transfers are excluded, a total of three new cases remains, giving an incidence rate of 0.27 per 1,000 population.

The single case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in the area during the year under review gives an incidence rate of 0.09 per 1,000 population.

No death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in the Urban District during 1959.

July 1960.

The incidence rate represented by the eight notified cases of
primary tuberculosis is 0.75. If the five latent tubercles are
added, a total of three new cases remains, giving an incidence
of 0.25 per 1,000 population.
The single case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in the
during the year under review gives an incidence rate of 0.05
per 1,000 population.
No death due to pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred
in the Urban District during 1953.



1953